(c) Provisions have already been made under MM(D&R) Act, 1957 under Section 23(C) by giving power to the State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. For prevention of illegal mining, various State Governments have constituted task forces at State level. Further, State Governments have flying squads to check illegal mining activities at district level.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans to minorities

1416. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many banks have designated a number of Muslims, minorities concentrated areas as negative or red zones where they do not give loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rectify this anomally?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS {SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) As advised by the Banking division of Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all the scheduled commercial banks to ensure that minorities receive an equitable share of credit and Lead Banks have been requested to keep this in view while preparing district credit plans.

Schemes under New 15 Point Programmes for Minorities

1417. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any schemes under the new 15 Point Programme for Minorities;

(b) if so, the details of each of these schemes; and

(c) the names of the States in which the schemes are under implementation?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) In June, 2006 the Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has been announced. The details of the schemes included in the programme are available on the website 'www. minorityaffairs.gov.in'. The programme is applicable to the entire country.

Minority Mapping work

1418. SHRI K.P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minority Mapping work undertaken by his Ministry has been completed and the final report submitted;

(b) whether any special vehicle under the title "Inter-ministerial Task Force" is going to be commissioned;

(c) whether it is a fact that the findings of the Mapping are more concentrating on the National Security angle than on the Social angle;

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu is also included in the list of Coastal States which are exposed to foreign mischief; and

(e) if so, what the districts of the State which are open for such foreign incursions?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Districts, CD Blocks and towns, having a substantial minority population, have been identified in consultation with the Registrar General of India.

An Inter-ministerial Task-force has already been constituted to formulate the approach for development of such towns.

Muslim officers in higher posts

†1419. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQIU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Muslim officers working on higher posts and the details of the services in which they are working on higher posts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.